

**CleanEnergy**  
States Alliance

# Partnering to Reduce Energy Burden: A Michigan Community Solar and Weatherization Pilot

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July 12, 2023

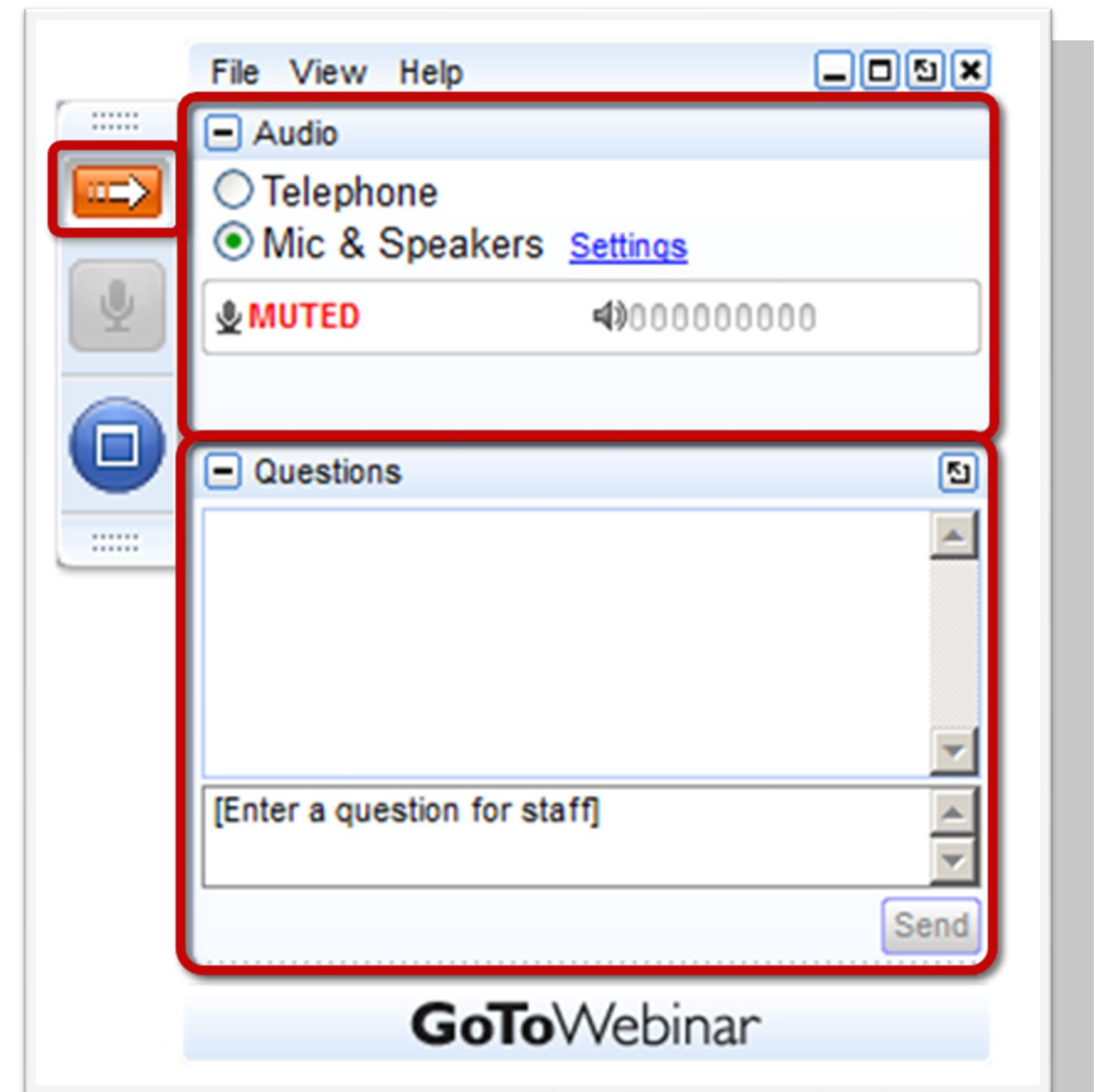
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The Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) is a national, nonprofit coalition of public agencies and organizations working together to advance clean energy.

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# CleanEnergy States Alliance

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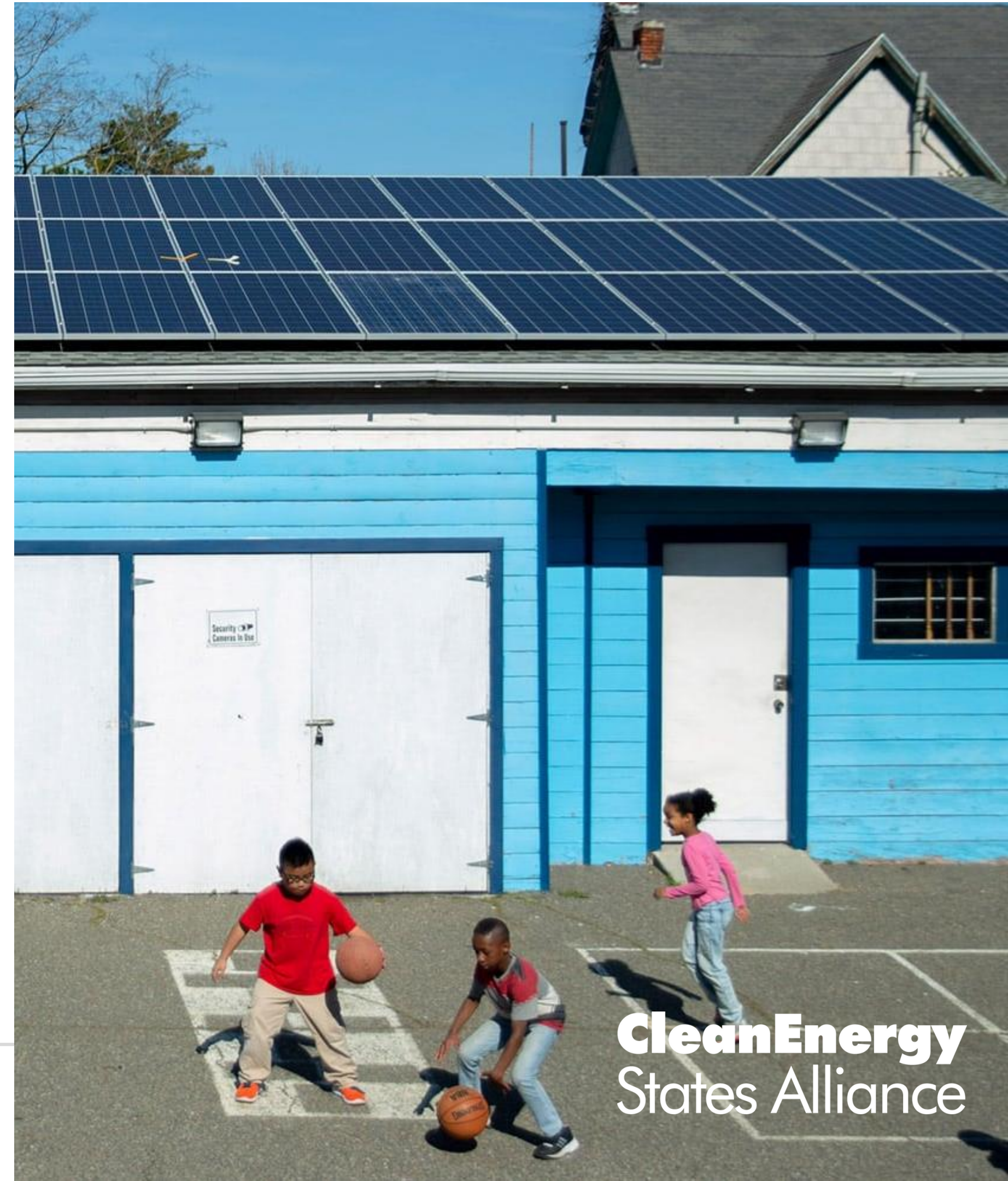
Office of the People's Counsel  
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# Solar with Justice: Connecting States and Communities

Identifying models for how state energy agencies and community-based organizations can collaborate more effectively to expand access to solar.



[www.cesa.org/projects/solar-with-justice](http://www.cesa.org/projects/solar-with-justice)

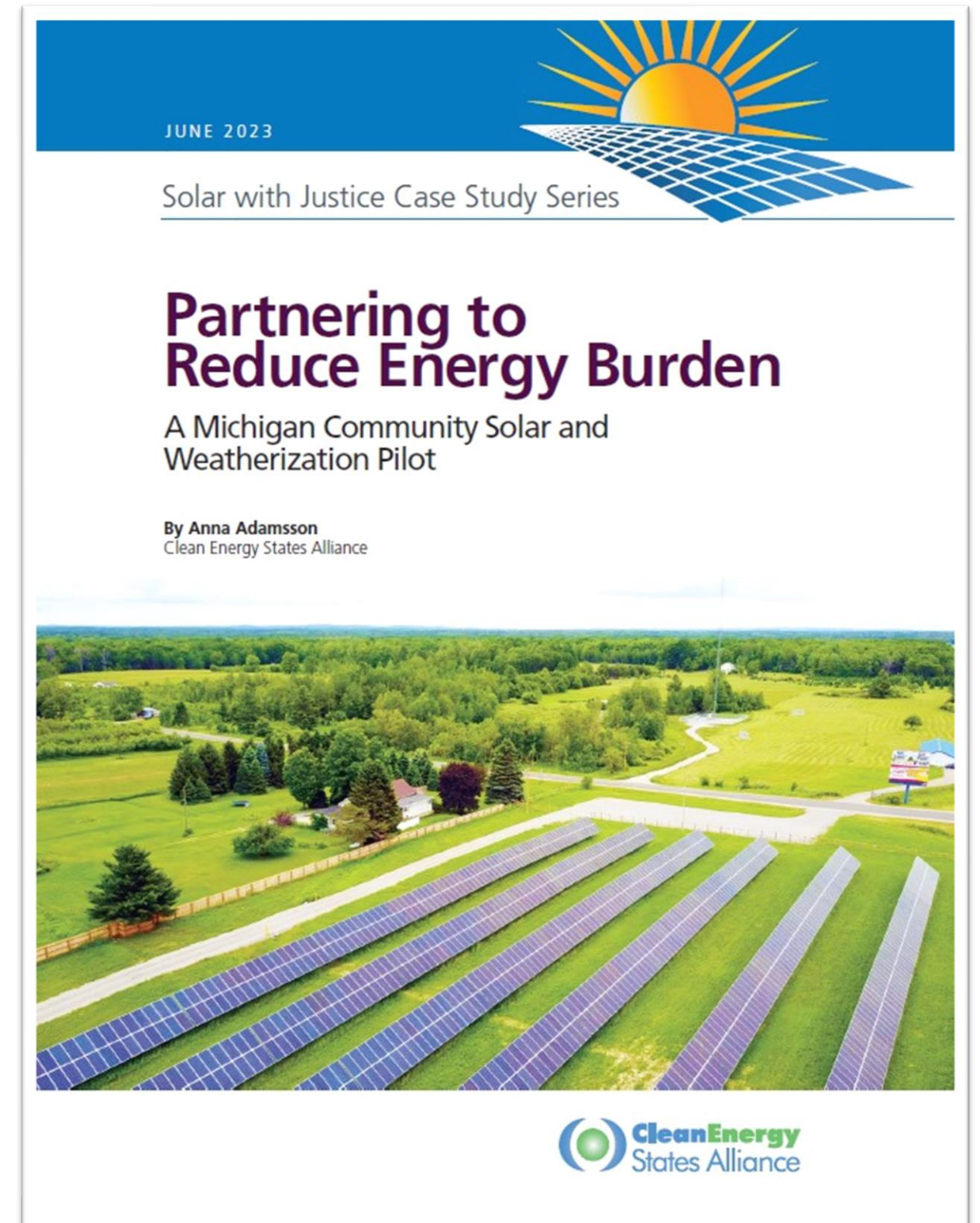


**CleanEnergy**  
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# Partnering to Reduce Energy Burden: A Michigan Community Solar and Weatherization Pilot

June 2023

By Anna Adamsson,  
Clean Energy States Alliance



# Webinar Speakers



**Lisa Thomas**  
Environmental  
Engineer Specialist,  
Michigan EGLE



**Miguel Rodriguez**  
Executive Director,  
Capital Area  
Community Services



**Tammy Haworth**  
Energy Use Advisor,  
Cherryland Electric  
Cooperative



**Brian Shew**  
Associate Program  
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Consumers Energy



**Anna Adamsson**  
Project Manager, Clean  
Energy States Alliance





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Resilient Power for Florida  
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U.S. State Renewables Portfolio &  
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Berkeley Lab's 2023 Review (7/26)

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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

# Michigan (MI) Solar Communities – Low to Moderate Income Access

By:  
Lisa Thomas

Energy Services

# How it Started

- What is CELICA?
  - The Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator (CELICA) is a voluntary partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy and state/local governments.
- What is the goal?
  - To provide access to renewable energy and demonstrate a wide range of locally designed solutions for low income. Michigan joined the Accelerator in 2018.
- MI Solar Communities – Low to Moderate Income Access
  - Continued the CELICA program after the DOE program ended to continue to provide access to alternative energy
  - Address low-income energy challenges
  - State government and energy service providers partnerships
  - Sustainable Value-Added Programs and Services (VAPS)



## Phase I – Co-op Utility

- Partners: Energy Services, formerly under the Michigan Energy Office (MEO), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Local Electric Utility, & Local Community Action Agency (CAA)
- Subscribers: 50 households. Previously weatherized, income-qualified (at or below 200% FPL) households, within electric utility territory
- Each household received the credits for the energy produced by 9 solar panels



## Phase II – Municipal Utility

- Partners: Energy Services, Michigan DHHS, Village of L'Anse, & Baraga Houghton Keweenaw Community Action Agency (BHK)
- Subscribers: 25 households. Previously weatherized, income-qualified (at or below 200% FPL) households
- The panels are paid for by contributions from Energy Services and a subscriber on-bill fee of \$.90/panel/month

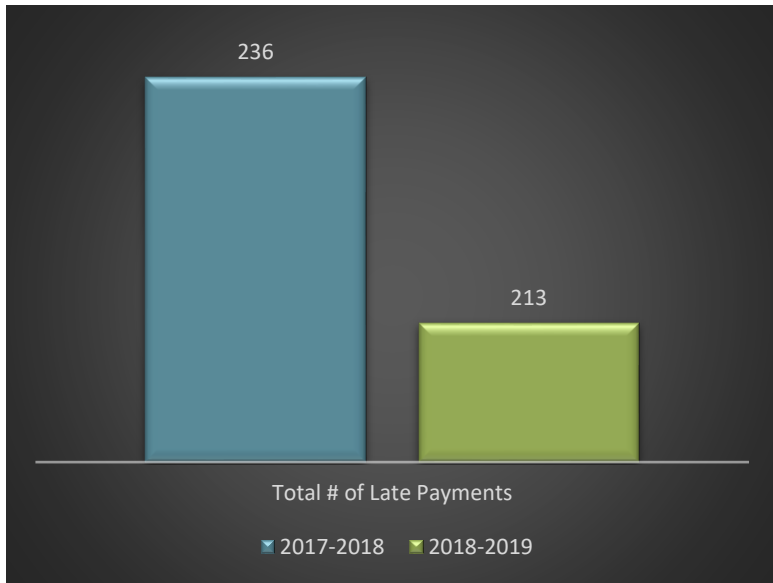


## Phase III – Investor-Owned Utility

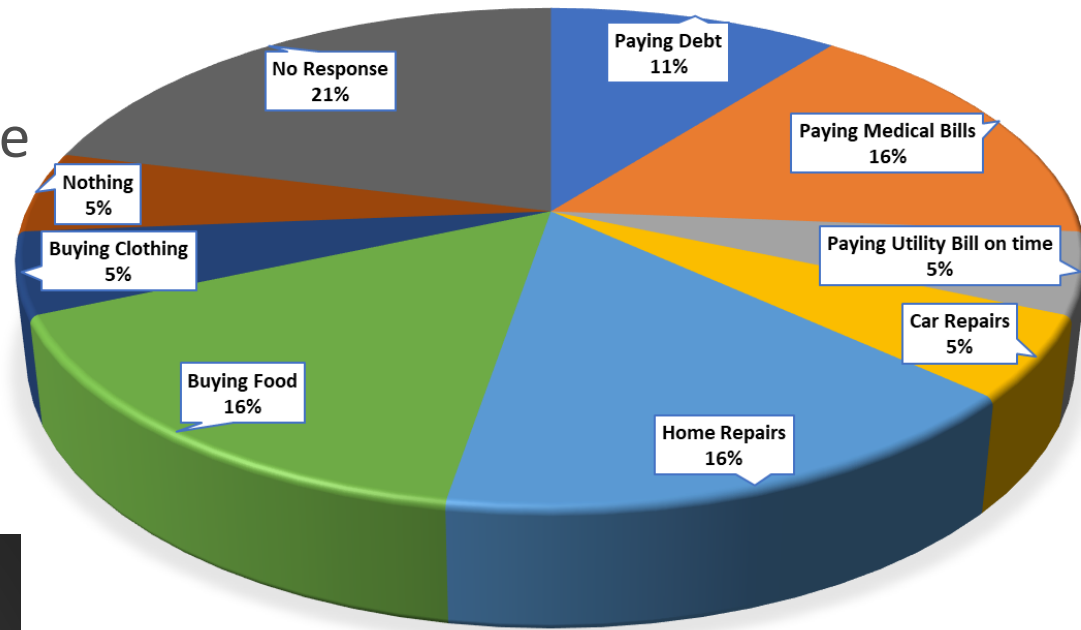
- Partners: Energy Services, Michigan DHHS, Capital Area Community Services, & Consumers Energy Company (CEC)
- Subscribers: 50 households. Newly weatherized, Gas and Electric CEC customers, income-qualified (at or below 200% FPL) households
- Partners signed the agreement in 2021, households will be enrolled in the Solar Gardens program

# Cherryland Survey Results

- 10% Late Payment Decrease
- Survey Comments:
  - Less Stress
  - Warmer & Healthier Home Temperature



## WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR UTILITY BILL SAVINGS?



## Subscriber Benefits

- Receive weatherization
- Receive solar credits
- Become energy self-sufficient

# Program Analysis & Next Steps

## Program Successes

- Partnerships Willingness
- Locally designed Project
- Address Energy Burden & Cost

## Lessons Learned

- Data Analysis
- Understanding Our Subscribers
- Income Verification

## Next Steps

- Update MI Solar Communities Guidebook
- Participate in workgroups, like CESA & NCSP



# Related Programs



- **Catalyst Communities**

- Communities can participate in a variety of resource opportunities, like energy efficiency

- **Michigan Zoning Database**

- Free database that catalogs the zoning of Michigan’s 1,856 jurisdictions and identifies those that reference renewable energy

Zoning Authority	PDF Ordinance Available	Utility Wind	Small Scale Wind	Utility Solar	Small Scale Solar	Electric Vehicles
<a href="http://www.discovermi.com">http://www.discovermi.com</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
<a href="http://www.aledonia.org">http://www.aledonia.org</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
<a href="http://www.portsburg.com">http://www.portsburg.com</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
<a href="http://www.harrisville.com">http://www.harrisville.com</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
<a href="http://www.harrisville.com">http://www.harrisville.com</a>	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
<a href="http://www.hawestown.com">http://www.hawestown.com</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
<a href="http://www.discovermi.com">http://www.discovermi.com</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
<a href="http://www.mitchell.com">http://www.mitchell.com</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

**Zoning database** »



- **MI Clean Energy Assets Roadmap**

- Understanding Michigan’s C&I renewable energy and clean energy technology development assets



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
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## Contact Us

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# Partnering to Reduce Energy Burden: A Michigan Community Solar and Weatherization Pilot

Capital Area Community Services, Inc.

Lansing, MI



# HISTORY

- Established in 1964 as President Johnson's War on Poverty.
- Serve clients in Eaton, Ingham, Eaton, Shiawassee Counties.
- 501(c)3 private nonprofit agency, 27 member Board of Directors.
- Weatherization program funds come to CACS from the State of Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity.
- Funds to purchase solar panel subscriptions come from Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

# MISSION/VISION

## **Mission**

Capital Area Community Services, in partnership with the community, provides education, access, and navigation related to the multiple needs of all people affected by poverty and lack of resources by providing food, housing, financial security, and early education programs to ensure success in school and life throughout the lifespan.

## **Vision**

The people we serve are not impacted by poverty, enjoy lives of personal dignity and self-worth, and are economically self-sufficient.

# SERVICES

- Weatherization
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Food Programs
- Financial Literacy
- Property Tax Foreclosure Assistance
- Information and Referral
- Utility and Housing Assistance

# EARLY ROLE

- Former Board President committed agency to project.
- Group was formed to discuss project and how to best implement the project.
- Various partners, EGLE, University of Michigan, Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity (BCAEO), Consumers Energy.

# RESOURCES AND CAPACITY CACS DEVOTED TO PROJECT

- Our Stability Service Director coordinated the budgeting program that would be used for clients participating in the program.
- Weatherization staff identify homes that were eligible to participate in the program. (BWL vs Consumers Energy).
- Upon verification of client eligibility, Weatherization Director would upload client into shared partner database. Client would be assigned solar panel subscription.
- University of Michigan staff would follow-up with home to do academic part of the project.
- CACS would pay Consumers Energy for solar panels purchased on behalf of clients.

# WEATHERIZATION PROCESS

- Client indicates interest in Weatherization program.
- Pre-inspection done on home to determine if house eligible for Wx services and what energy measures can be done. (ROI)
- Contractor(s) go out and perform various energy measures.
- Post-inspection on work done on the home. Homeowner signs off on work done to their home.
- Contractor submits invoices for payment of work done.
- Home included in monthly report as a Weatherized unit.

# CACS LESSONS LEARNED/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Secure agreements and note when payments will be received.
- Make sure all partners are clear on their responsibilities and are clear how weatherization process works.
- Account for some amount of administration costs.
- Use materials that have already been developed from existing programs.
- Make connection to CAA's, but understand CAA's ramping up their weatherization programs due to additional federal funding.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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